

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP  
CONFERENCE

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 30, 2007*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, SCLC, as it celebrates 50 years of promoting non-violent action as a means to achieve social, economic, and political justice. The opportunity to serve as the first African-American Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee is a tribute to the efforts of the SCLC to promote equal opportunity and equal justice.

Without the courage and sacrifice of members of the SCLC, namely its first President, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and those Presidents that followed—Ralph Abernathy, Joseph Lowery, and Martin Luther King, III, we simply would not be where we are today. And while we have much work to do, we are living the legacy of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference everyday.

This August will be the 50th anniversary of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. The SCLC traces its roots to the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955, which began with the quiet yet courageous efforts of one woman: Rosa Parks. I had the privilege of working with Rosa Parks for over 20 years when she agreed to join my staff after I was elected to Congress in 1964. The Montgomery Bus Boycott brought together two local ministers, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Ralph Abernathy, who established the Montgomery Improvement Association to lead the boycott efforts. As the movement to desegregate public transportation spread beyond Montgomery County into surrounding states, it was clear that the organization needed to expand, both in size and in scope.

Following the success of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, a group of 60 organizers from 10 states met in Atlanta, Georgia to plan the next steps. The result was the founding of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference on Transportation and Nonviolent Integration. The organization's title was shortened to its current name, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference during its first convention, held in Montgomery in August 1957. Next week, the SCLC will be hosting its 49th annual convention in Atlanta, GA.

Leading the efforts of the SCLC to end segregation was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a man I am honored to have been able to call a friend and confidant. In fact, it was Dr. King that endorsed me for Congress when I first ran and was elected to serve in 1964. Significantly, Dr. King personally awarded me with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Award in 1967. Having walked alongside Dr. King, a fearless leader who challenged continued racial segregation and believed that "oppressed people cannot remain oppressed forever," I am committed to continuing the legacy of Dr. King and the SCLC.

Under the helm of President Joseph Lowery for much of its existence—from 1977 until 1997, the SCLC advanced Dr. King's dream for an America—a society united behind the banner of equality and freedom. Today, the SCLC remains strong under the leadership of

Dr. Charles Steele, Jr., promoting a number of programs in the areas of economic empowerment, health advocacy, education, and criminal justice. The SCLC has also established the Martin Luther King, Jr., Conflict Resolution Center, an international initiative to promote Dr. King's principle of nonviolence as a means to resolving conflicts throughout the world.

We've come a long ways over the last 50 years, and the work of the SCLC continues to be of critical importance. It is to the credit of Dr. King and other leaders of the SCLC that today the torch of the civil rights movement is carried by many hands. One of those hands is Dr. King's son, Martin III, who headed the SCLC from 1997 until 2003 and remains committed to the organization's vision. So following the lead of Martin III, Joseph Lowery, Ralph Abernathy, and of course Dr. King, let us continue the work and legacy of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference on its 50th anniversary.

TUMACACORI HIGHLANDS  
WILDERNESS ACT OF 2007

**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2007*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation today to protect a magnificently diverse natural landscape in the mountains southwest of Tucson. When enacted, the Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness Act will make a major contribution to the conservation of the natural wonders of Arizona, to the benefit of all of our citizens—those alive today and all the generations to come.

The Tumacacori Highlands is the collective name for two adjacent wilderness areas on public lands that are part of the Coronado National Forest.

These desert peaks and canyons are key parts of the world-renowned Sky Island bioregion, a biological "hotspot" where the southern margin of habitats for many species from the Rocky Mountain west overlaps the northern extent of habitats for many tropical species better known in Mexico. The area is home to subtropical species like the elegant trogon and Chiricahua leopard frog that are found nowhere else in the United States, and offers secluded habitat vital for jaguars, the rare and elusive spotted cat that is now repopulating this portion of its former range.

THE NEW WILDERNESS AREAS

This legislation will expand the existing 7,553-acre Pajarita Wilderness, which Congress protected in 1984 under the leadership of one of America's greatest conservation leaders, Rep. Morris K. Udall, and his close colleague, Sen. JOHN MCCAIN. As the House committee report explained, this "is one of the most delicate and important ecotypes in all of Arizona," providing "an important corridor for life zones to the north and south." My new legislation will afford statutory wilderness protection to some 5,750 additional acres, enhancing overall protection for this rare biological gem.

Just to the north, separated only by an unpaved Forest Service road that crosses the mountains between Nogales and Arivaca, the legislation will also designate the Tumacacori

Highlands Wilderness. This larger area comprises some 70,000 acres surrounding Atascosa Peak and the ridges and canyons that fall away from it on all sides. This is important intact habitat—a remaining oasis of what southern Arizona used to be—and protects important parts of the watersheds for both the Santa Cruz River and the world-renowned riparian area of Sycamore Canyon in the core of the expanded Pajarita Wilderness. The area offers outstanding opportunities for recreation and renewal. Some folks hike to Atascosa Peak or other high points for sweeping views hundreds of miles in all directions. Others linger along the highly accessible margins of the area enjoying the scenic wonders of this wilderness landscape from the roadside.

USER-FRIENDLY WILDERNESS

Madam Speaker, along the roads that offer extraordinary access to these wilderness areas, one is surrounded by wild scenery. These "user friendly" wilderness areas offer diverse recreational opportunities for people of all ages, whether for an easy stroll and picnic or a more vigorous extended outing.

For the visitor who craves wild scenery but chooses not to hike, the Ruby Road and its numerous spurs offer a marvelous motoring experience, with the wilderness literally at the roadside untarnished by intervening roadside development beyond turnouts and trailheads that offer inviting picnic stops. As we too often forget, one of the greatest values of preserving our wilderness areas is for the enjoyment of those who use them by viewing their scenic vistas from the edges. And I hasten to add that other public lands in this region are available for those who choose other forms of outdoor recreation, including motorized recreation.

The boundaries proposed in this legislation have been adjusted to ensure plentiful road access to the wilderness for recreation. We emphasize protection of habitat, which is vital to increasing numbers of sportsmen who seek true wilderness hunting. As a result, this proposal has earned the support of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers and the Arizona Wildlife Federation.

COMMUNITY-FRIENDLY WILDERNESS

Protecting open space and scenic wild places like the Tumacacori Highlands contributes directly to the high quality-of-life sought by our people. The dramatic scenic backdrop of these mountains, uncluttered by development creeping up the slopes, entices people to choose to make their homes in these communities, including Green Valley and Rio Rico. Indeed, seven homeowners' associations in Green Valley, representing some 1,400 households, have formally endorsed this proposal.

The wild landscape of the Pajarita and Tumacacori Highlands are an essential asset for our small business owners, a matter of particular importance to me as a member of the Committee on Small Business. A University of Arizona study found that in Santa Cruz County alone, visitors to natural areas spent between \$10 million and \$16 million annually on travel and accommodations. The natural wonders of this landscape draw artists to artist colonies such as Tubac and Arivaca—and bring art lovers to patronize local galleries and studios. My friends in the local arts community tell me that art that evokes the wild splendors of the southern Arizona landscape is perennially popular with their customers.